

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 474

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ATLANTIC RELATIONS: MODIFICATION IN FRENCH VERSION OF
PARAGRAPH THREE

REF: USNATO 0193

1. AMBASSADOR DE ROSE INFORMS ME THAT FRENCH PREFER TO ADD
"IN EUROPE OR IN NORTH AMERICA..." TO THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE
JULY 15 FRENCH VERSION OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE ATLANTIC DECLARA-
TION (TRANSMITTED REFTEL). WE HAVE ADDED "OF THEM" IMMEDIATELY
PRECEDING THE FRENCH ADDITION SINCE THIS BETTER REFLECTS THE
FRENCH LANGUAGE TEXT AND HELPS THE SENTENCE TO TRACK BETTER.
FIRST SENTENCE, PARAGRAPH 3, WOULD THUS READ AS FOLLOWS IN
FRENCH VERSION: "THE MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE REAFFIRM THE
PRINCIPLE THAT AN ATTACK ON ONE OR MORE OF THEM IN EUROPE OR
IN NORTH AMERICA SHALL BE CONSIDERED AN ATTACK AGAINST THEM ALL,
COMMON DEFENCE BEING AS A MATTER OF FACT ONE AND INDIVISIBLE."

2. RATIONALE FOR FRENCH ADDITION IS TO BRING TEXT INTO CON-
FORMITY WITH THE ATLANTIC TREATY AND TO AVOID GIVING RISE
TO EXTENSIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE TREATY'S ARTICLE FIVE
WERE SUCH LANGUAGE TO BE OMITTED FROM THE DECLARATION.
ON INFORMAL BASIS, I HAVE INDICATED TO DE ROSE THAT I CAN SEE THE
LOGIC OF WANTING TO AVOID QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER DECLARATION
WAS AN ATTEMPT TO AMEND THE TREATY, IN THIS INSTANCE WHERE THE
LANGUAGE IS SO CLOSE.

RUMSFELD

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